**Urban poverty alleviation programmes in Rajasthan**

3874. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of urban poverty alleviation programmes that have been formulated and are being implemented in Rajasthan, scheme-wise;

(b) the total funds allocated, released and utilized during the last three years for implementation of the above scheme, scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of persons benefited from these schemes and what has been per capita expenditure thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Centrally sponsored scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, including in the State of Rajasthan, with effect from 1.12.1997. The Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up self employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and, secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

(b) The Central share funds allocated, released and utilized under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) to the State of Rajasthan during the last three years are as under:

*(Rs. in lakhs)*

| Year | Tentative Central Allocations | Actual Central Funds released | Central Funds Utilized* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 340.19 | 256.29 | 217.68 |
| 2005-2006 | 495.38 | 495.38 | 497.69 |
| 2006-2007 | 852.93 | 852.93 | 99.72 |

*As reported by the State Government in Quarterly Progress Report (QPRs).

(c) The number of persons benefited under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), in Rajasthan, cumulatively, since the inception of the Scheme on 1.12.1997 and as reported up to 31.3.2007, is as under:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of Urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro-enterprises | _ | 48041 |
| Number of urban poor imparted skill training | _ | 22774 |
| Number of Mandays of work generated under wage employment | _ | 23.47 Lakhs |

The total cumulative expenditure (both Central and State Share) reported by the State Government under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) being Rs. 6193.61 lakhs and the estimated number of urban poor in Rajasthan (in 1990-2000) being 26.78 lakhs, the per capita expenditure under SJSRY in Rajasthan is Rs. 238.28/-.

**MoU to protect Indian workers**

3875. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a MoU with Government of Kuwait to protect Indian workers in that country;

(b) if so, the details of the MoU;

(c) whether such MoUs would be signed with all countries which have a significant number of Indian workers;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are very slow to take up grievances of widows whose husbands died while working overseas; and

(e) the steps proposed to induce efficiency in Government to respond quickly to complaints of families of overseas workers?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has signed an MoU on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development with the State of Kuwait. The MoU *inter alia*, would facilitate recruitment of manpower between the two countries and ensure welfare of the Overseas Indian workers. The MoU also envisages constitution of a Joint Working Group of the two countries to implement the same.